



## Heather Boni

Heather Boni is currently a candidate for the Masters of Fine Arts degree in Dance with a specialty in Arts and Community Engagement at FSU. She received her undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Dance from the University of Idaho as well as certifications in Dance Movement Therapy and Elementary Labanotation. She has trained with many professional choreographers and companies in the field. Some of these include the Sacramento Ballet Company, Axis Dance Company, soloist in Continuous Replay by Arnie Zane and Bill T Jones Company, and the main soloist in the restaging of Passage by Jean Erdman through the National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpiece Grant. She has been an advocate of integrated performing arts throughout the country for over 10 years. In her three years prior to her graduate studies, Heather served as a Dance Mentor for Opportunity Village in Las Vegas, NV providing arts enriching opportunities to people with disabilities, taught dance for the Very Important Arts (VIA) program at underprivileged schools for the at-risk and developmentally delayed youth, and served as a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist through the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. Boni continues to develop artistic works in collaboration with interdisciplinary artists and mixed ability movers within the Tallahassee community.



## Rebecca Metcalfe

Rebecca Metcalfe aspires to be the best that she can be! She expects herself to give 100% effort in all things and live her life to the fullest. Towards the end of high school, Metcalfe enrolled in a modern dance class. Within a few months she was happily dancing in the class, in her high school's modern dance club, in private classes, and as a company member of The Dance Dimension. Although she majored in wildlife biology, she continued to dance in university modern dance companies for her undergraduate years at Virginia Tech and graduate studies at University of Tennessee, where she studied under a former member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. When, 12-years ago, she survived a major car wreck leaving her with permanent disabilities, she thought my dancing days were over. But in her pursuits she had overlooked an important lesson! She was so intent on giving her all athletically, she had missed appreciating modern dance as an art form...it's spiritual beauty. Rebecca Metcalfe dances now, not for the pleasure of her outer eye, but for her inner joy.



## Lindsey Whitfield

Lindsey Whitfield is currently in her first year for a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Studio Arts at FSU. She previously received her BFA degree in Computer Animation from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Her early work involved traditional art mediums such as drawing, oil painting, and watercolor. In her final year of her bachelor's degree, she started exploring experimental animation as a combination of her traditional art background and modern technology. Fascinated by the aesthetic appeal of texture created by paint, she works in paint on glass animation for the range of texture and movement it is capable of producing. Lindsey continues to animate and explore new ways of connecting with the viewer through expressive forms of animation and paint.

“Paint on glass form of experimental animation – this is my desired body of work and something I have been progressing towards for quite a while. I feel that this is a way to really make people look and appreciate the materiality of it...the movement and strokes, there is an organic quality to it that makes it feel like it has its own life and spirit...and yet it feels like it is a part of me...it is apart from me but it is a part of me because there is my hand in it” – Lindsey Whitfield



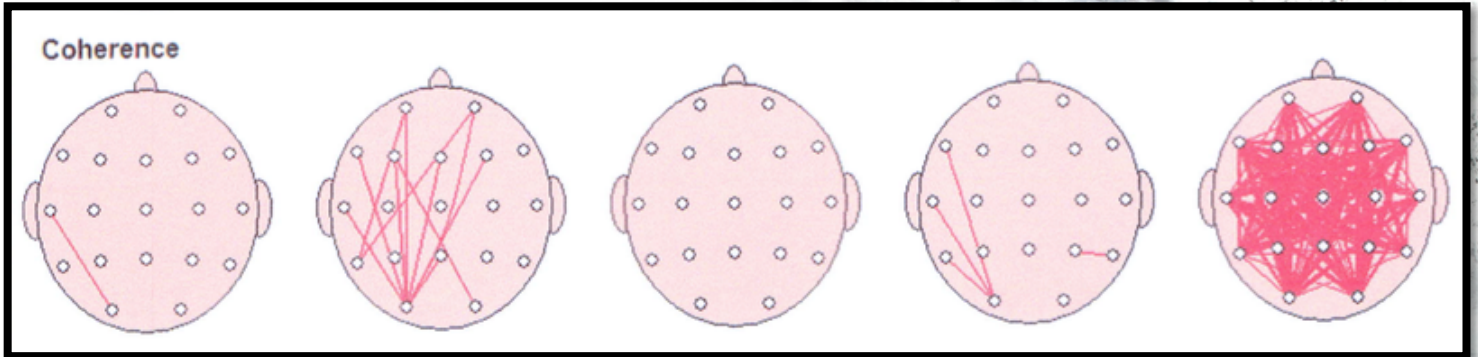
# Coherence

## The Collaborators and Coherence

Just as the title of this collaborative work suggests, there are many layers that blend, intertwine, and compete to create the unified wholeness of this creative endeavor. Inspired by her grandmother who was recently diagnosed with dementia, Lindsey Whitfield, the studio artist and paint on glass animator of this project, is interested in the concept of memory loss, the fracturing of memory, and how the distortion of our perception influences how we see the world through our individual eyes. Why do we hold onto certain memories? And how do we develop, change, or even lose our sense of identity based on the recollection of these memories?

Heather Boni, the choreographer and movement designer for this project, has been an advocate of integrated performing arts throughout the country for over 10 years. She is interested in our unique perceptions of limitations and how these concepts of limits drive and shape our individualized character and calling. In *Coherence*, Heather works with Rebecca to design a movement vocabulary that questions how our unique perceptions of change and difference both contribute to, and challenge, our sense of self and character.

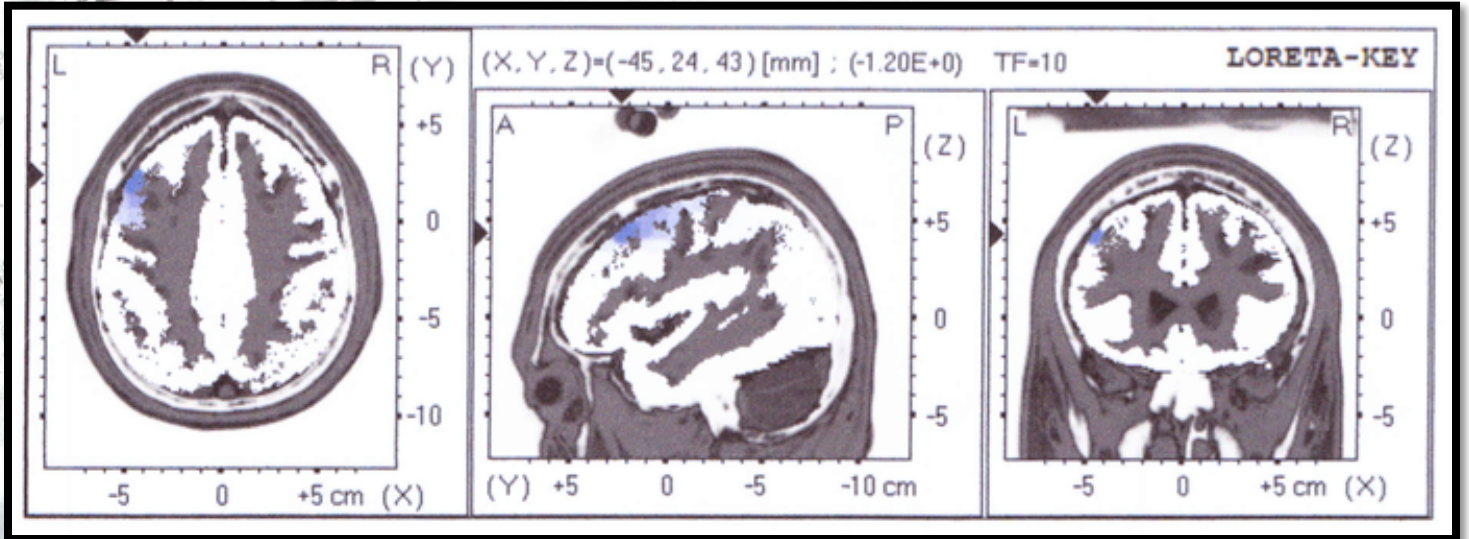
Rebecca Metcalfe has a diverse educational background in biology and dance and she loves to challenge herself to try new creative endeavors. She was in a severe car accident 12 years ago that left her with neurological issues and physical limitations. After a rich conversation about memories both lost and found after her accident, she shared the scans of her brain after her traumatic incident.



## The Description of Design

The pathways, designs, and structured chaos of these brain scans became the context and inspiration for the design of the space, glass painted animations, and movement vocabulary to which Coherence was developed. Lindsey described, "When I looked at her brain scans I could tell there was a system here that should have been working, but it seemed to almost implode on itself in its attempt to re-structuralize...I wanted to show this in the animation."

Heather, Lindsey, and Rebecca conversed about different means and methods to gather the essence of thought through animated design and movement vocabulary, and what it might look like for Rebecca's brain to go through the traumatic accident...thoughts ricocheting and not ever landing...her brain actively trying to remember and not having a place to store the short term memory impulses that initiated and did not find their ending.



Lindsey picked this specific scan to begin her creative design. This scan shows a recording of Rebecca's brain trauma. Lindsey stated, "Rebecca is a biologist so it is integral that I add texture in the design. I need it [the animation] to feel organic and not too rigid... not too computerized or controlled. I wanted to provide room for the viewer to breathe, the texture to breathe, and Rebecca to breathe...to show life coming in and out, the constant pulsing, the fight for the steady beat and rhythm of life of the body."

The inspiration of the colors in the painted glass animation was Rebecca coming back to life and also seeing life for what it really is...seeing the value and the beauty in life after suffering trauma and a life restarted. The color represents a reconnection and a blossoming of this new life and perspective. In Coherence, there are images and rhythms that invoke anxiety and chaos...similar to how Rebecca described the experience of being trapped inside her own mind...the trauma, dysfunction, and memory loss.... but there are also moments of lightness, breath, and calm that represent her desire to find beauty, peace, and coherence above it all.